



5

EMA TOYAMA

Listen
to me...

AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

The background features abstract geometric elements: thin grey lines forming irregular shapes, small black and grey squares, and dots scattered across the page. Some areas are filled with diagonal hatching. The title is centered and underlined.

AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

BY TOYAMA EMA

CHARACTERS

BASKETBALL TEAM MEMBERS



TAIKI
IWASE

The Team Captain, who
lives and breathes basketball.
High-School 2nd Year.



TSUYOSHI
OKAMOTO

Often the butt of jokes.
High-School 2nd Year.



RYOSUKE
KAZANUMA

The intellectual Vice-Captain.
High-School 2nd Year.



NAO
INOHARA

Aoba's best friend.
High-School 1st Year.



KYOKO
MATSUMAE

Manager.
High-School 1st Year



ASUKA
UMEJI

Aoba's ex-girlfriend.
The manager for South
Hiratsuka High's
basketball team.



HARUMA
EMORI

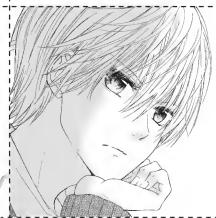
South Hiratsuka High's
basketball star.
Aoba's teammate in junior high.
Has a grudge against Aoba.



Listening
House Mode

MAYO SAKURADA

A quiet first-year high school girl who isn't good at talking to people. In order to conquer her weaknesses, she starts a part-time job at a Listening House as a person who listens to other people's worries. She joined the basketball team as a manager in order to understand Aoba better.



KOTA AOBA

The basketball team's star player who's popular with the girls. A first-year high school student. He went to the same junior high school as Mayo. He seems to be hiding something that he can't share with anyone. He's Mayo's first customer at the Listening House.

STORY

A high-school loner with poor communication skills, Mayo starts a strange job as a "Listening House girl" where she listens to people's stories. But her first customer is the school basketball team's star player Aoba, whom Mayo thought was flawless and the epitome of social stardom! In order to hear about Aoba's worries, Mayo becomes the basketball team's manager... Aoba opens up to Mayo about how he will always end up losing interest in the things that he loves. Mayo tells him not to run away, and to fall deeper in love with those things. Aoba made a promise to Mayo that he will tell his teammates his secret at the summer retreat! Meanwhile, Nao develops feelings for Aoba and draws a line in the sand with Aoba...?!

C O N T E N T S

time . 17

I'VE TAKEN ALL YOUR COURAGE.

5

time . 18

I LIKED YOU, TOO...

41



time . 19

I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.

77

time . 20

I WON'T LET YOU.

115

EXTRA EDITION

~ THE LATE NIGHT TALK AT THE TEAM RETREAT. ~



154



time . 17

I'VE TAKEN
ALL OF YOUR
COURAGE.



...EVERYONE
DO TWENTY
LAPS OF
WIPING THE
FLOORS
BOTH
WAYS!

ALL RIGHT!
SINCE
SAKURADA-SAN
IS IN BED WITH
HEATSTROKE...



DEFI-
NITELY
NOT!

CLEANING
THIS
PLACE
IS A PART
OF OUR
MUSCLE
TRAINING!

IT'S LIKE
I NEVER
TRULY
SAW HOW
RUN-
DOWN
THIS
LODGE
IS...

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS





WHY
ARE YOU
STOPPING,
INOHARA?
SPILL THE
DETAILS
WHILE
YOU'RE
CLEANING!

ROBA...?

KYO-
KO...



BECAUSE
I...LIKE YOU,
TOO,
ROBA-KUN...



BUT I
CAN'T
GIVE IN
TO THOSE
FEELINGS.



MOST
GUYS
CAN'T JUST
SAY THAT KIND
OF STUFF WITH
CONFIDENCE,
HUH,
ROBA?

YEAH.
I'M REALLY
JEALOUS.

HE CAN
CLEARLY
TALK ABOUT
THE THINGS
HE LIKES.

Before
Publication
Sketch



AOBA-
KUN



A YOUNG
JUNIOR-
HIGH
VERSION...?

I'M THE
WORST...

DEPENDING
ON HER...

LETTING
HER CRY...

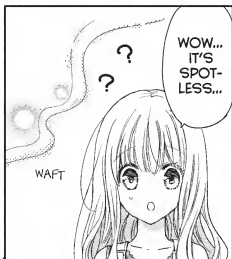


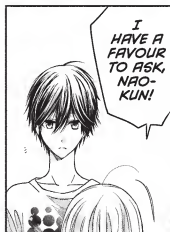
IT'S
DARK...
IS IT
NIGHT...?

OH... I
MUST'VE
BEEN OUT
COLD SINCE
THEN...

NGH...

...







THERE'S
SOME-
THING
I REALLY
WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT IN
PRIVATE!

HUH
...?

I WANT
YOU TO
BRING
ROBA-KUN
HERE!



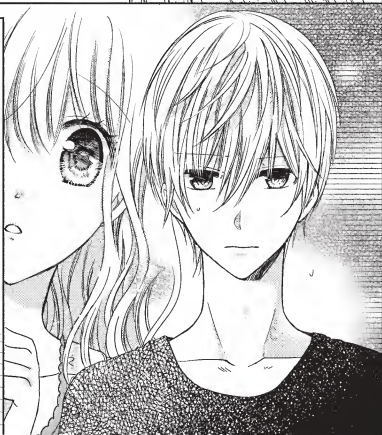
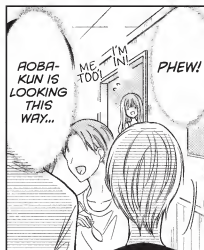
PLEASE...!

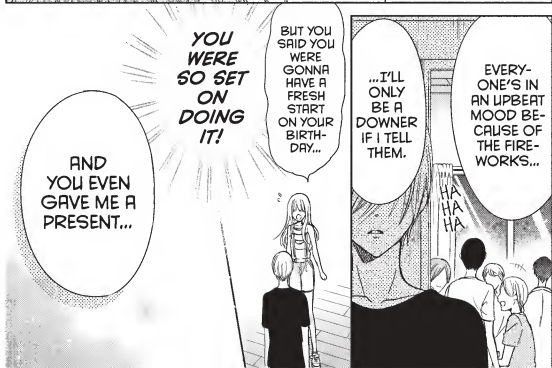


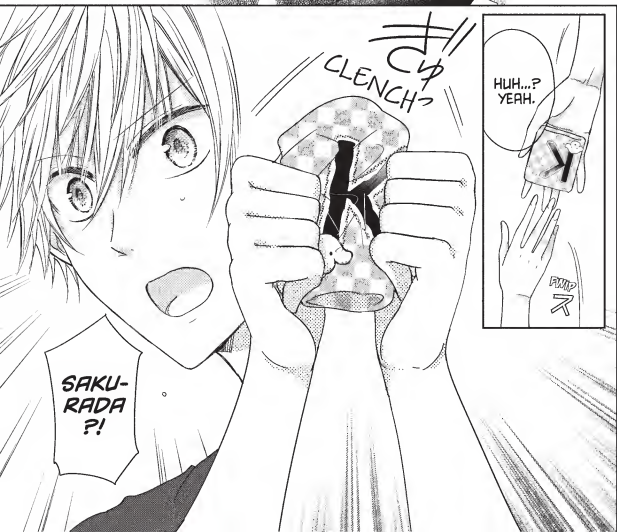
OKAY.
IT'S
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT,
RIGHT?

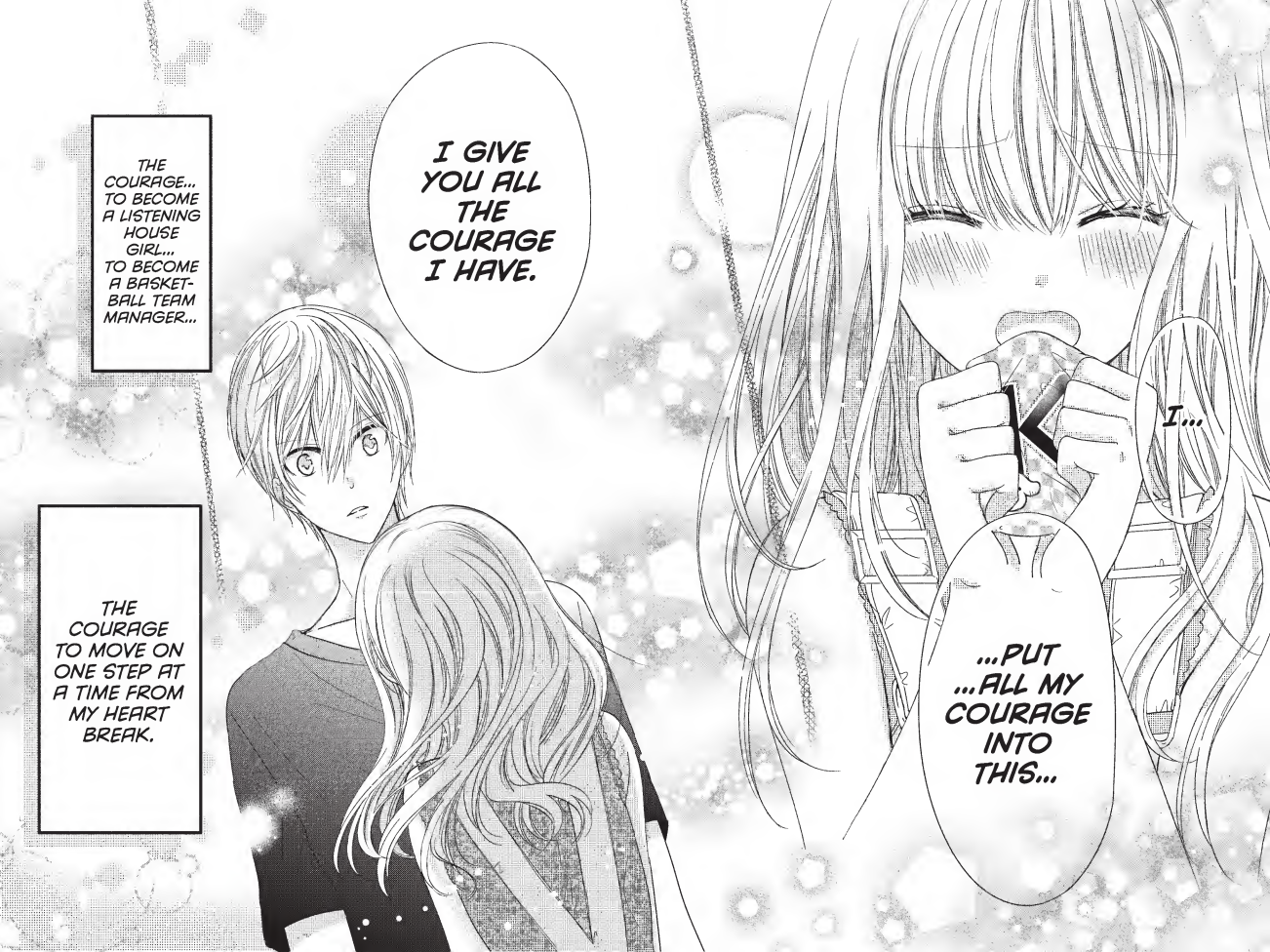
HOLD
ON.

PAT









THE
COURAGE...
TO BECOME
A LISTENING
HOUSE
GIRL...
TO BECOME
A BASKET-
BALL TEAM
MANAGER...

I GIVE
YOU ALL
THE
COURAGE
I HAVE.

THE
COURAGE
TO MOVE ON
ONE STEP AT
A TIME FROM
MY HEART
BREAK.

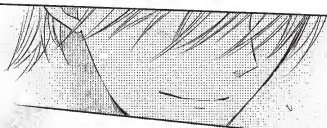
I...

...PUT
...ALL MY
COURAGE
INTO
THIS...



THE
INCREDIBLE
COURAGE
THAT IT
TOOK FOR
ME...

TURN
IT INTO
THE
COURAGE
NOT
TO RUN
AWAY...



HEY,
COULD
YOU...

I
DECIDED
THAT I
DIDN'T
WANT TO
REPEAT
MY PAST
AGAIN...

WHAT
AM I
DOING...?





HUHP!

ME...?

...PUT
THAT
ON
ME?

C'MON,
QUICK!



OH MY
GOD

OH MY
GOD



I'VE
TAKEN
ALL YOUR
COURAGE,
SO...



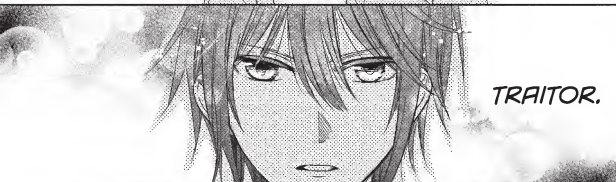
I
CAN'T
LET THAT
HAPPEN
AGAIN...

BA-
DUMP

BA-
DUMP

YOU
LET US
DOWN.

I DON'T
GET IT,
MAN!
THAT'S
NOT A
REASON
TO QUIT!



TRAITOR.



...SO
THAT IT
DOESN'T
HAPPEN
AGAIN!

I'M
GOING
TO GO
FOR-
WARD...

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH
FOR
YOUR
EFFORT IN
THE LAST
GAME!**

**EVERY-
ONE!**

**HUH?
ROBA?**

**IN
JUNIOR
HIGH,
I DESERTED
MY BASKET-
BALL
TEAM...**

**...BECAUSE
OF A
PROBLEM
I'VE HAD
FOR A
LONG
TIME.**

**I'M
GOING TO
TELL YOU
ALL THE
TRUTH.**

**THANKS
TO ALL
OF YOU,
I'VE
MADE A
DECISION...**



YOU
"STOP
BEING
ABLE
TO DO
IT"?

WHAT...?
WHAT
DOES
THAT
MEAN...?

?

...SUD-
DENLY
STOP
BEING
ABLE TO
DO IT
ONE
DAY...

THAT
PROBLEM
BEING,
IF I LIKE
SOME-
THING
TOO
MUCH,
THEN
I...



HUH...?

ROBA...
SO
THEN...

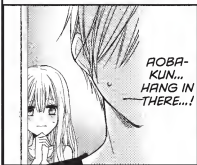
MY
BODY
JUST
LOCKS
UP.

A LONG
TIME AGO,
I WAS ABLE
TO DO
KENDO AND
ARCHERY,
BUT NOW
I CAN'T...





NGH.



AOBA-KUN...
HANG IN
THERE...!

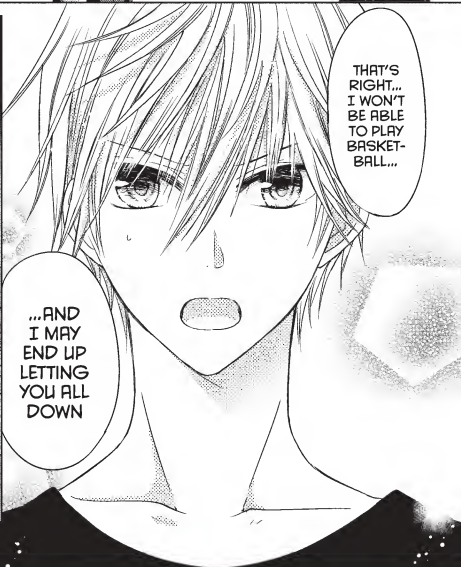


YOU'RE
SAYING
THAT YOU
SUDDENLY
WON'T BE
ABLE TO PLAY
BASKETBALL,
TOO?



ぞ
7
JOLT

...AND
I MAY
END UP
LETTING
YOU ALL
DOWN



THAT'S
RIGHT...
I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO PLAY
BASKET-
BALL...



...FIX
THAT
PROBLEM
OF YOURS,
AOBA.

WE'RE
GOING
TO...

WE
CAN'T
TRUST
SOMEONE
WHO MIGHT
JUST STOP
PLAYING
BASKET-
BALL TO BE
OUR STAR
PLAYER!

CAPTAIN...

SO...

SOME-
HOW
OR
ANOTH-
ER.

I
DON'T
KNOW.
BUT EVEN
IF IT CAN'T,
WE WILL!

CAN
IT
BE
FIXED
?!



**WHEN YOU
FEEL LIKE YOU
CAN'T GO ON,
WE'LL BE THERE
TO PULL YOU
BACK WITH
EVERYTHING
WE'VE GOT.**

**DON'T
RUN
AWAY
LIKE
YOU
DID IN
JUNIOR
HIGH.**

**FROM
YOUR
FRIENDS,
OR FROM
YOUR
PROBLEMS.**



SO
DO YOUR
BEST TO
HANG IN
THERE,
TOO.

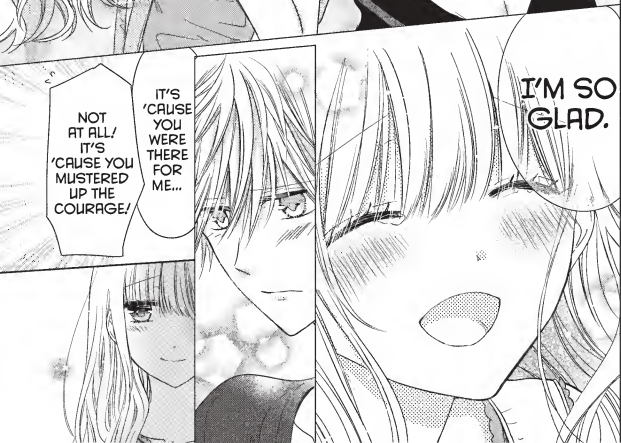


I
WILL...
THANKS,
GUYS...





**AOBA-
KUN!
YOU DID
IT!**



NOT
AT ALL!
IT'S
'CAUSE YOU
MUSTERED
UP THE
COURAGE!

IT'S
'CAUSE
YOU
WERE
THERE
FOR
ME...

**I'M SO
GLAD.**



NOW
YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO
MUSTER THAT
COURAGE
FOR
UMEKI-
SAN.



ALTHOUGH
I WAS
CRYING
EARLIER
BECAUSE
OF MY
FEVER...

I'LL
ALSO...

NOW...
I'M
JUST AS
HAPPY
AS ROBA-
KUN IS.

I
THINK
THOSE
FEELINGS
YOU HAD
FOR HER
WILL
RETURN
SOON

ASUKA?





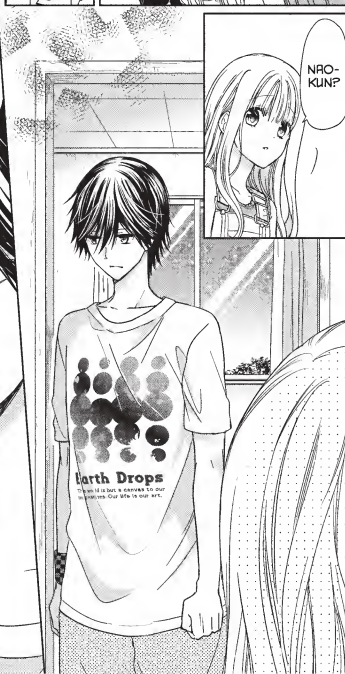
...CHEER
YOU ON
WITH EVERY-
THING I'VE
GOT.



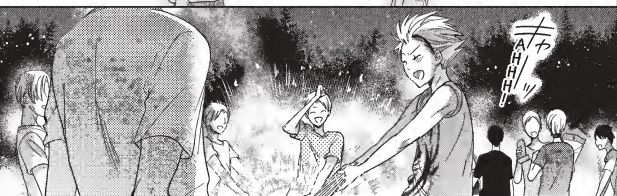
OKAY,
LET'S
GET THE
FIRE-
WORKS
READY!

SAKU-
RADA

ALL
THAT
MATTERS
IS THAT
AOBA-KUN
IS HAPPY.



UH...

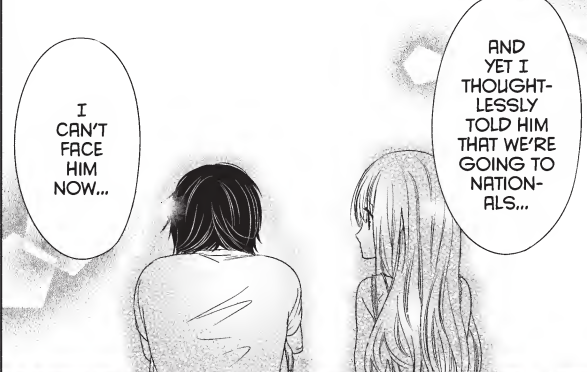


I MEAN,
HE MIGHT
SUDDENLY
BE UNABLE
TO PLAY
TOMOR-
ROW.

NOW I
UNDER-
STAND
WHY HE
WANTED
TO QUIT...

I
DIDN'T
KNOW
KOTA WAS
DEALING
WITH SUCH
A TOUGH
ISSUE...





I
CAN'T
FACE
HIM
NOW...

AND
YET I
THOUGHT-
LESSLY
TOLD HIM
THAT WE'RE
GOING TO
NATION-
ALS...



I THINK
ROBA-KUN
WOULD'VE
QUIT.

BUT
IF YOU
WEREN'T
HERE,
NAO-
KUN...

HE'D
DECIDED THAT
HE WASN'T
GOING TO
PLAY BASKET-
BALL IN HIGH
SCHOOL.



BUT HE
STARTED
PLAYING
AGAIN,
AND TRIED
FACING HIS
PROBLEMS
INSTEAD OF
RUNNING
AWAY..



ALL
BECAUSE
YOU
PUSHED
HIM TO
DO IT.

I
THINK
THAT'S
INCREDI-
BLE.



YOU'RE
CHANGING
ROBA-KUN'S
LIFE, NAO-
KUN.



FLICKER
1/10
1/1

I'LL
TAKE
THIS
ONE.

OH,
SEMPAI!

YOU
TWO
AREN'T
GONNA
DO ANY
FIRE-
WORKS?

THE
SCENTED
ONE?
AREN'T
YOU AN
OLD SOUL,
NAO!

PICK
THE ONE
YOU
LIKE.



CRACKLE
1/10
CRACKLE
1/10
1/4

YOU'RE
LIKE
THE
SCENTED
FIREWORK,
SAKURA-
DA-SAN.



IT
MIGHT
BE SMALL,
BUT IT TRIES
ITS HARDEST
TO SHINE.



I THINK
YOU'RE
MORE
AMAZING
THAN ME.

AND
YOU TRIED
TO DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT ALL
BY YOUR-
SELF...

YOU
WERE THE
ONLY ONE
THAT KNEW
KOTA'S
SECRET,
RIGHT?



UH...

HUH...?



DON'T
DROP
IT.

CRACKLE
10
4.4

AH...
IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
GONNA
GO
OUT...

I'M LIKE
THIS FIRE-
WORK IN
THAT WAY,
AT LEAST..

...AND
I...AL-
WAYS
PUT
MYSELF
DOWN.

BUT I'M
NOT
DEPEND-
ABLE...

F

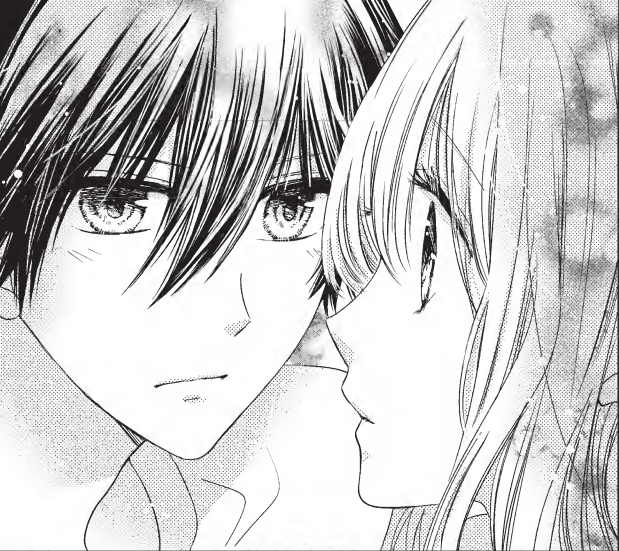
CRACKLE

OH...

IT GOT
BIGGER
AFTER
JOINING
WITH NAO-
KUN'S
SPARK...

TOGETHER,
OUR LIGHT
CAN BURN
BRIGHTER
THAN IT
CAN ALONE.

th Drops



AND I
WANT TO
SUPPORT
YOU,
TOO.

I...
WANT US TO
SUPPORT
KOTA TOGETH-
ER, WITH YOU,
SAKURADA-
SAN.

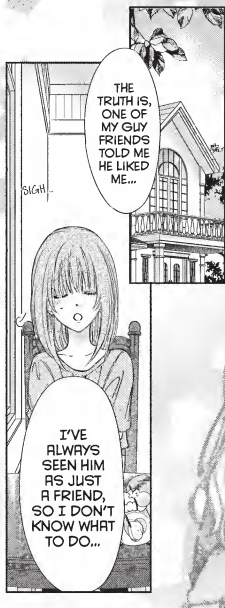
**I...
HAVE
FEELINGS
FOR YOU,
SAKURADA-
SAN.**





time . 18

I LIKED YOU,
TOO...



THE
TRUTH IS,
ONE OF
MY GUY
FRIENDS
TOLD ME
HE LIKED
ME...

I'VE
ALWAYS
SEEN HIM
AS JUST
A FRIEND,
SO I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO...

*THAT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME THAT
A GUY CON-
FESSED HIS
FEELINGS
FOR ME...*

I...
HAVE
FEELINGS
FOR YOU,
SAKURADA-
SAN.



AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS



Y-YES...

**YOU
FEEL
HAPPY,
BUT IT'S
COMPLI-
CATED,
ISN'T
IT?!**

**I
KNOW!**

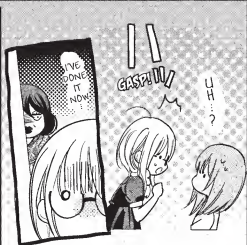


**RIGHT!
AND IT'D
BE WEIRD
TO TURN
HIM
DOWN!**

**AND
HE DIDN'T
ASK ME OUT
AFTER OR
ANYTHING
EITHER,
SO...**



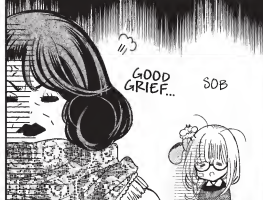
MAYAYOOO!



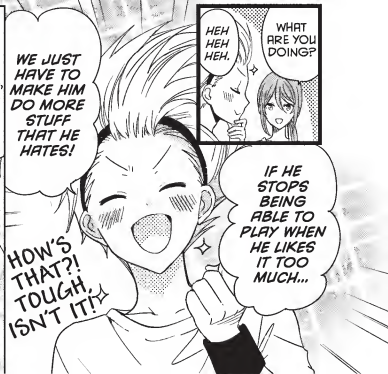
I'VE
DONE
IT
NOW!

GASP!!

UH...?









I'M
SO
GLAD.

WOW...
EVERYONE IS
BEING SO
CONSIDERATE
OF AOBA-
KUN...

BUT
THE
PLAN
ITSELF
ISN'T
SO
BAD.

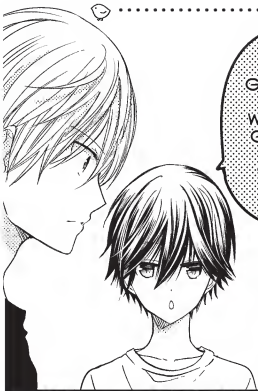
RIGHT?!



SOUTH
HIRATSU-
KA MIGHT
BE
THERE.

BY
THE WAY,
THERE'LL
BE OTHER
SCHOOLS
THERE TOO,
SO DON'T
START ANY
TROUBLE.





THE
GAME, HUH?
I HAD
WANTED TO
GO ALONE
WITH
SAKURA-
DA-SAN.



IN THAT
CASE, AOBA-
KUN MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO TALK
TO HER ...

UMEKI-
SAN
MIGHT BE
THERE
TOO.



I'M.
GONNA.
GO.
CHANGE.
CLOTHES...

THAT
SOUNDED
LIKE THE
TRUTH!

I'M
KID-
DING.



?!
GO



SO YOU...
REALLY
DO HAVE
FEELINGS
FOR SAKU-
RADA...



NAO...
I MEAN



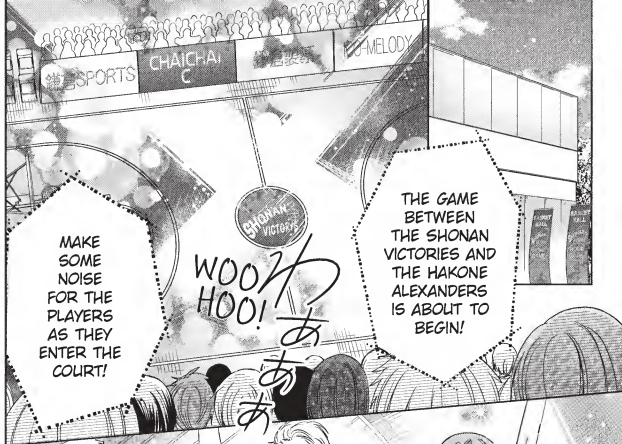
WHAT?!
OF
COURSE
THAT'S
NOT A
PROB-
LEM...

YOU'RE
NOT COOL
WITH ME
TELLING
HER THAT
I LIKE HER,
HUH?



OH...
THANKS...







THEY
HAVE
AMAZING
TIMING
WHEN
THEY'RE
MOVING
IN...

WOO
HOO!

WHOA!
HOW DID
HE JUST
MAKE
THAT
PASS?



OH NO!
THEY'VE
ALREADY
STARTED!

HEH
HEH.

WELL...
I
GUESS
THAT'S A
GOOD
THING.

LET'S
TRY IT
WHEN
WE GO
BACK!

I WANT
TO TRY
OUT THAT
FORMA-
TION...

THEY'RE
SURE
CRAZY
ABOUT
BASKET-
BALL.

THEIR
EYES
ARE
SPARK-
LING...



UMEKI-SAN!

OH! IT'S SOUTH HIRATSUKA.

WE'RE LATE, 'CAUSE YOU GUYS TOOK SO LONG!

WOO! HOO!



ROBA...



ASUKA...





WHAT
THE HECK?
IF I'D
KNOWN
AOBA WAS
HERE, I
WOULDN'T
HAVE
COME!

OKAY...



WE'RE
GOING
BACK,
ASUKA.

OW!



LET'S
GO AFTER
HIM!

WHY,
THAT
LIT-
TLE...!



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

IT'S
NOTHING.
STUFF LIKE
THIS ALWAYS
HAPPENS
WHEN
UMEKI'S
INVOLVED.

A!!
DASH



HARU-
MA!



...?

WHAT
CAN YOU
DO? THE
TWO OF
THEM ARE
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS...
AND
UMEKI'S...



I TOLD YOU
TO HAVE
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
AOBA!

LET GO
OF ME,
HARUMA!



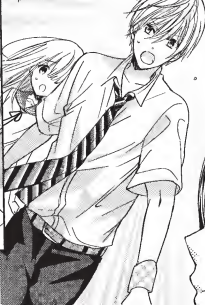
I'M NOT
GONNA BE
LIKE THAT
ANYMORE...

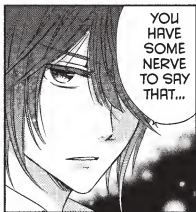


A
TRAITOR
LIKE YOU
SHOULD
KEEP HIS
MOUTH
SHUT!



HARUMA!
STOP
BEING
ROUGH
WITH
ASUKA!





YOU
HAVE
SOME
NERVE
TO SAY
THAT...



I...
DECIDED
TO CON-
FRONT MY
PAST.

ALONG
WITH THE
TEAMMATES
I HAVE
NOW.



...WHEN
ASUKA
QUIT THE
TEAM
BECAUSE
OF YOU!



HUH...?



ASUKA,
YOU
SURE
ARE
TOUGH!



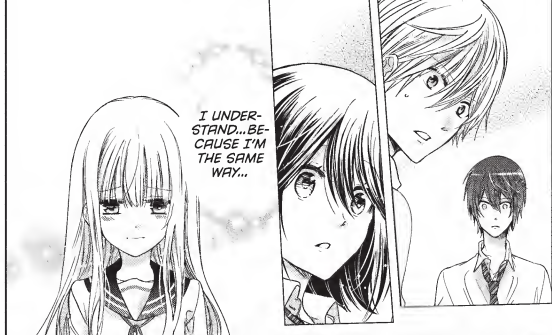
**IT'S
NOT
MESSED
UP.**

...IN
HOPES
THAT
YOU'D
RETURN...

SHE
QUIT THE
BASKETBALL
TEAM AND
BECAME A
MANAGER SO
YOU'D FEEL
LIKE PART OF
THE TEAM...

**IT'S
MESSED
UP THAT
YOU'RE
STILL PLAY-
ING BAS-
KETBALL
AFTER
YOU ABAND-
ONED
US!**

S...
SORRY...





**SHE
CAN'T
HELP STILL...
BUT...DO
WHATEVER
SHE CAN FOR
SOMEONE
SHE CARES
FOR!**

YOUR
FEELINGS
MIGHT
NOT COME
ACROSS,
BUT...

GASP

SHE LIKES
HIM...SO
SHE WANTS
TO HELP HIM
WHEN HE
IS STRUG-
GLING...

SHE
DOESN'T
CARE
IF SHE
THROWS
IT ALL
AWAY.



**AOBA!
LET'S
GO!**



**GO
WITH
HER,
AOBA-
KUN!**



**YOU
AGAIN...
SUPPORT-
ING THAT
TRAITOR...**

**HE'S
REALLY
PISSED...!**



PHEW!



**I'LL
BE
BACK!**



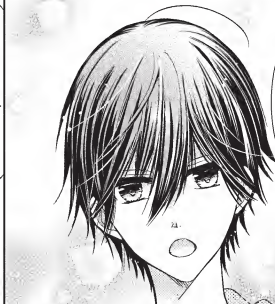
SEEING
HOW YOU
HOGGED
THE BALL
DURING
THE INTER-
HIGH
PRELIMI-
NARIES...



...IT'S
CLEAR
YOU
DON'T
TRUST
YOUR
OWN
TEAM-
MATES.



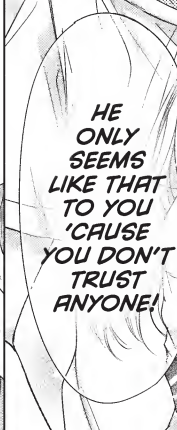
AND
YOU'VE
LOST ALL
TRUST IN
YOUR
CHILD-
HOOD
FRIEND.



**A
TRAI-
TOR,
HUH?**



**WHAT
DO
I
DO
...?**



**HE
ONLY
SEEMS
LIKE THAT
TO YOU
'CAUSE
YOU DON'T
TRUST
ANYONE!**



KOTA
AND I
ARE GO-
ING TO
BE
STRONG
TOGETH-
ER.

SOMEONE
WHO CAN'T
MOVE
FORWARD
FROM THE
PAST...

...ISN'T
EVEN
WORTH
CALLING
A RIVAL.

HMPH.

WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
KNOW?





GASP

...ABOUT
YOU.

THAT'S
WHAT
I LIKE...



I KNOW.

EVEN
THOUGH
ROBA-KUN
REJECTED
ME, I...



UH...

N...NRO-
KUN...
YOU
KNOW...





SAKU-
RADA-
SAN'S
RIGHT...



ASUKA,
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?!



YOU
DON'T
EVEN
BELIEVE
THAT I
HAVE
FEELINGS
FOR YOU...

I DO.



HUH...?



I QUIT
BASKET-
BALL AND
BECAME
A MANAG-
ER...

...AND NOW I
JUST DON'T
KNOW WHAT
MORE TO DO
FOR YOU,
AOBA.



I
BELIEVE
YOU,
ASUKA.



YEAH...
SORRY.

**N-NO!! WE'RE
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS, SO I
TURN TO HIM A
LOT, BUT WE'RE
NOT LIKE THAT!**

I'D...
ALWAYS
ASSUMED
THAT YOU
HAD FEEL-
INGS FOR
HARUMA...



THE
THREE
OF US.

WE WENT
TO SEE
GAMES
LIKE THIS
DURING
JUNIOR
HIGH, TOO,
DIDN'T WE?

KNEEL...

OH MY
GOD...
I'M SO
HAPPY...

EVERY DAY, YOU
CHALLENGED
ME TO A ONE-
ON-ONE GAME,
SAYING YOU'D
LET ME JOIN THE
TEAM ONLY IF I
BEAT YOU.

MMPH!

AND THEN,
FOR SOME
REASON,
YOU MADE
ME YOUR
ENEMY...

YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!

HARUMA
ADMIRERD
HIS DAD
AND
WANTED TO
MAKE THE
GREATEST
BASKETBALL
TEAM EVER.
THAT'S
HOW HE
SCOUTED
YOU,
RIGHT?!

HARUMA'S
DAD'S
GAME,
RIGHT?

カ

BLUSH
ア

NO!
HONESTLY...
I LIKED YOU
SINCE THE
BEGINNING!

WELL,
I DIDN'T
WANT A
WEAKLING
TO JOIN
HARUMA'S
TEAM!

AND
YOU
WERE
SO
SKINNY
THEN,
ROBA!

YEAH...ME
TOO.

WHOA! SO
THAT WAS
YOUR FIRST
IMPRES-
SION OF
ME, HUH?



ROBA...?

...

I
LIKED
YOU...
TOO...

I'D
ALWAYS
AVOIDED
ADDRESS-
ING MY
FEEL-
INGS...
...BUT
NOW...I'M
FINALLY
ABLE TO
RECOG-
NIZE
THEM.

**BUT
I...CAN'T
BE WITH
YOU...**

**I'M
SORRY,
ASUKA...**





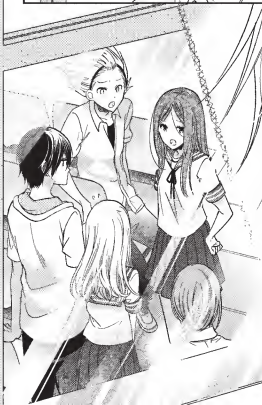
THAT'S
WHAT I
USED TO
THINK.



IS IT...
BECAUSE
OF YOUR
PROB-
LEM...?



BUT
NOW...





**...THAT
I CARE
ABOUT.**

**THERE'S
SOMEONE
ELSE...**



**...BE-
CAUSE
OF ME...**

**I'M
SORRY
THAT YOU
WENT
THROUGH
SO MUCH
PAIN...**



**D...
DON'T
DO
THIS!**

**IT'S
NOT
GONNA
WORK
OUT
WITH
HER!**

**IT'S
BEEN LIKE
THAT FOR
A LONG
TIME,
RIGHT?**

**WHEN
YOU FALL
IN LOVE
WITH
SOME-
THING,
YOU FALL
OUT OF
LOVE
EVENTU-
ALLY.**

**YEAH...
THAT'S
WHY...**

...GOING
TO TELL
HER.

I'M
NOT...

W
O
O
O
O
O
//





time . 19

I DIDN'T WANT
TO KNOW.

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS

THE
SUMMER
BREAK
WAS OVER,
AND THE
SECOND
TERM
BEGAN.

SO
GIRLS
CAN WEAR
YUKATA
OR KIMO-
NO...



...OUR
CLASS HAS
DECIDED TO
DO A CAFÉ
FEATURING
JAPANESE
SWEETS.

OKAY,
FOR THE
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL
NEXT
MONTH...



This story is fictional, and is completely unrelated to real people, groups, and events.

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS





HMP?
COME
TO
THINK
OF IT...

I
WONDER
WHAT HE
MEANT BY
THAT.

IT'S
OKAY
THAT
YOU LIKE
KOTA.

NAO,
YOU'RE
SURE
UPFRONT
ABOUT
THINGS...

HOW SO?

NAO-
KUN'S
ALWAYS
BEEN HIM-
SELF...



WHOA...

LET'S
HANG OUT
DURING
OUR PREP
FOR THE
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL!

WELL
THEN!

SO
THIS IS
WHAT
YOUR
VOICE
SOUNDS
LIKE.

SAME
HERE!

THIS
MIGHT BE THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE SPOKEN
TO YOU,
SAKURA-
DA-SAN.

DID MY...
VOICE GET
LOUDER
THANKS TO
BEING ON THE
BASKETBALL
TEAM?



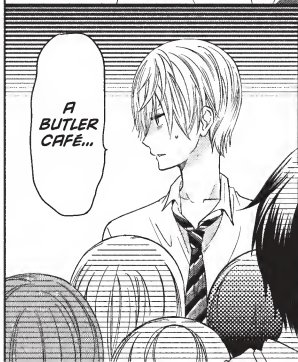
ROBA-KUN...!!



SO YOUR CLASS IS HOLDING A JAPANESE SWEETS CAFÉ, HUH?

SURE

I'M SO HAPPY...!



A BUTLER CAFÉ...



A BUT...



BUT?



JOLT

UH, KOTA. WHAT'S YOUR CLASS DOING?





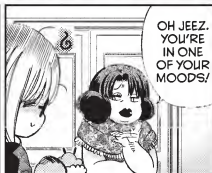
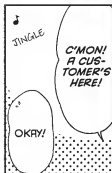
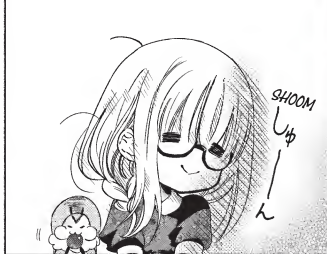


AL-
THOUGH
IT HURTS
A LITTLE
INSIDE...

I'M
HAPPY
FOR YOU,
AOBA-
KUN.



I GUESS
YOU DON'T
NEED THE
LISTENING
HOUSE GIRL
TO TALK
ABOUT
LOVE ANY-
MORE, HUH?





**ASUKA
UMEKE.**

**HA
HA HA!
I GUESS
YOU DIDN'T
NOTICE.
IT'S ME!**

HEH HEH HEH HEH...



...?

...I
THOUGHT
I'D REGRET
IT AND
DECIDED TO
LENGTHEN IT
INSTEAD!

I ALSO
CON-
SIDERED
CUTTING
MY HAIR,
BUT...

HUH?!

SO
THEN...

POUR
POUR

IT'S
A WIG!
I CAN
TAKE IT
OFF.

WHAT...
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
HAIR?!



A black and white manga panel showing two young women standing in front of a large window. The woman on the left has short, light-colored hair and is wearing a dark dress with a white collar. The woman on the right has long, dark hair and is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt. They are both looking at each other. The window behind them shows a view of trees and foliage. There are two speech bubbles above them.

AOBA...

*...BROKE
MY
HEART.*



A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a young woman's face. She has long, light-colored hair and is looking down with a surprised or confused expression. Her mouth is slightly open. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

HUH...?



WH...
WHY?



SOB

I
THOUGHT
THINGS
WERE
GOING
WELL FOR
YOU
TWO...



YOU'VE
HELPED
ME SEVER-
AL TIMES,
SAKURA-
DA-SAN, SO
I WANTED
TO TELL
YOU.



SNIFF

ANOTHER
GIRL...?



HE SAID
THERE'S
ANOTHER
GIRL
HE HAS
FEELINGS
FOR...



SAKURA-
DA-SAN...



**IT'S
NOT LIKE
YOU'D
KNOW
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
AOBA.**



**DO YOU...
HAVE ANY
IDEA WHO
IT IS?**



**NO...I
DON'T
HAVE A
CLUE.**



**I SEE...
I GUESS
YOU
WOULDN'T.**

AOBA-
KUN...

I
HAD
NO
IDEA...

AND
SO, OUR
EVENT TO
PROMOTE
BASKET-
BALL...

I
INTENDED
TO SPEND
TIME WITH
HIM AND
HEAR WHAT
HAP-
PENED...

WELL,
EVERY-
ONE HAS
CLASS
EVENTS
TO
WORK
ON,
SO...

NOT ONLY
IS IT EASY ON
THE BUDGET,
THERE'S
HARDLY ANY
PREPARATION
THAT GOES
INTO IT!

WE'RE
CALLING IT
"AIM
FOR THE
BASKET."

BASKETBALL
FEATURE

SCORE

YOU
GET A
PRIZE
BASED
ON THE
AMOUNT OF
BASKETS
YOU SHOOT
IN A
MINUTE.

AOBA-
KUN
ISN'T
HERE...

THINK
ABOUT
SOMETHING
CHEAP TO
GIVE AWAY
AS PRIZES,
TOO.

HMM,
WHAT
COULD
THAT
BE...



SINCE WE HAVE A LINE-UP THAT SHOULD DRAW IN GIRLS...



OKAY!!

OH/ I THOUGHT OF A GOOD IDEA.

...WHO HE LIKES...

I WONDER IF IT'S EVEN OKAY TO ASK...



HUHHH?!

RYOSUKE... SO WE'RE DOING AN "AIM FOR THE LOVER" SORTA THING!



AND TEN WILL GET YOU A "SWEEP OFF YOUR FEET"!

HOW'S THAT?!

FIVE BASKETS A "KABE-DON"!

THREE BASKETS, YOU GET A "CHIN TOUCH"!



THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE GOING WITH INDECENT PRIZES LIKE THA-

WHOA



TAIKI

RYO-SUKE



PRIZES
LIKE
THIS?

SERIOUS



BUT
CAN
MOST
GIRL
EVEN
SHOOT
TEN BAS-
KETS?

GOOD
POINT.



HUHP!

OKAY...

HEH
HEH...

MANAG-
ER, WHY
DON'T
YOU
GIVE IT
A SHOT?

...THAT
AOBA-KUN
COULDN'T
TELL ME...

PERHAPS
I HAD
SUPPORTED
UMEKI-
SAN SO
MUCH...

IT'D
BE HARD
FOR
MATSU-
MAE, SO
PRACTI-
CALLY IMPOSSI-
BLE FOR HER.

HUHP
SHE'S
GOING
FOR IT?



...AND
NAO-
KUN...

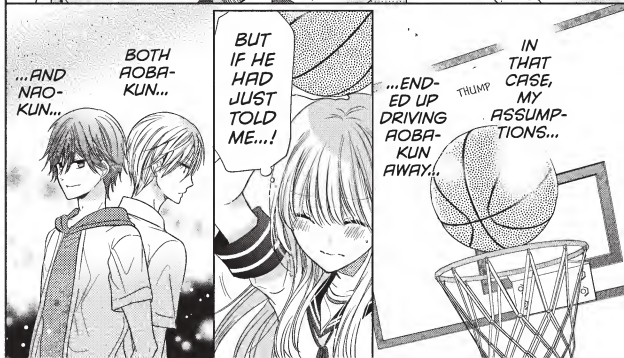
BOTH
AOBA-
KUN...

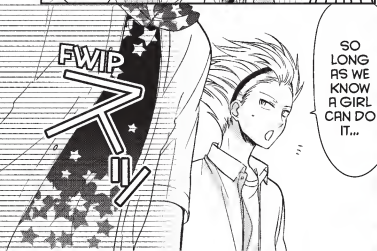
BUT
IF HE
HAD
JUST
TOLD
ME...!

...END-
ED UP
DRIVING
AOBA-
KUN
AWAY...

THUMP

IN
THAT
CASE,
MY
ASSUMP-
TIONS...







WHOOOSH

JUST
TESTING
SWEEPING
A GIRL
OFF HER
FEET!







HA HA HA!

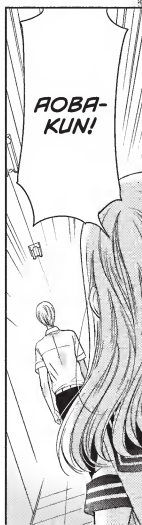
YOU GOT REJECT-
ED THERE,
NAO.

Aww
DASH!



SORRY!
PUT ME
DOWN!

AOBA-
KUN!!

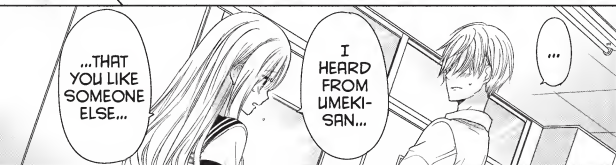


AOBA-
KUN!



I WAS
RELIEVED TO
HEAR THAT
AOBA DIDN'T
FEELINGS FOR MAYO,
BUT...

...IT LOOKS
LIKE HE
DOES...





**I STILL
SUPPORT
YOU IN
YOUR FEEL-
INGS FOR
WHOMEVER
THAT PER-
SON IS!**

**YOU DID
NOTHING
WRONG,
SAKURA-
DA.**

**I
DIDN'T
REALIZE
MY FEELINGS
BEFORE,
EITHER.**



HUH...?

**I
DON'T
PLAN ON
TELLING
HER.**

**BUT
YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
SUPPORT
ME.**



**I
DON'T
WANT TO
PUT HER
THROUGH
ALL THAT
BY GET-
TING HER
INTO A
RELATION-
SHIP!**



**YOU
CAN'T
TELL HER
BECAUSE
YOU CARE A
LOT ABOUT
HER,
HUH?**

**I
DON'T
KNOW
WHEN
I'LL LOSE
THOSE
FEEL-
INGS...**

**AND
I'VE BEEN
STRUG-
GLING WITH
THAT FEAR
IN BASKET-
BALL.**



HOW
NICE...





IT'S
NOT A
GOOD
THING!

SIGH

TO FALL
OUT OF
LOVE FOR
SOMEONE
SUDDENLY.

I
WAS JUST
THINKING
HOW NICE
IT IS FOR
THAT PER-
SON...

...TO
HAVE YOU
CHERISH
THEM THAT
WAY.

THAT
WAS
RUDE
OF ME,
WASN'T
IT?! I'M
SORRY.

HUH...?

M



BUT IF
YOU FIND A
WAY TO FIX
IT LIKE WITH
EVERYONE
ON THE
BASKET-
BALL
TEAM...

A TEAM-
MATE
AND A
GIRL-
FRIEND
ARE TWO
DIFFERENT
THINGS.

OH
NO.

**THEY
ARE.**

THEY'RE
NOT.

THE MORE
HE TALKS
ABOUT HER,
THE MORE
I...



**I WOULD
SPEND MY
LIFE TRYING
TO THINK OF
A SOLUTION
TO YOUR
PROBLEM!**

**...CAN'T
HELP BUT
FEEL JEAL-
OUS...!**

**IF I
WERE THAT
GIRL, I'D
WANT TO BE
TOGETHER NO
MATTER HOW
FRIGHTENING
THE FUTURE.**







BAD-
UMP

SAKU-
RA-
DA...

IF
THAT'S
THE
TRUTH...

AOBA...
KUN...?

BAD-
UMP



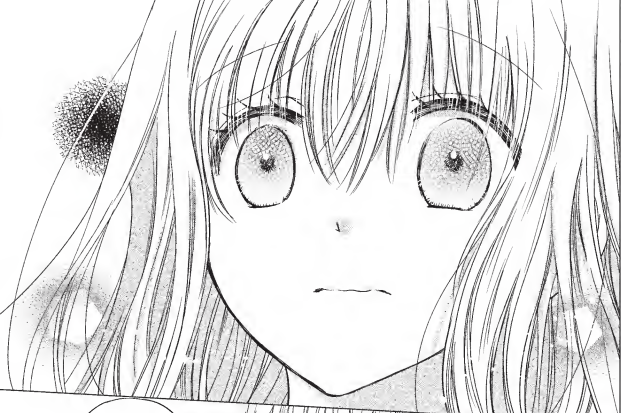
CLENCH

EVEN
IF IT
IS...

...I CAN'T
RECIPRO-
CATE YOUR
FEELINGS.

FORGET
YOUR FEEL-
INGS FOR
ME...

...AND BE
HAPPY WITH
NAO.



...THAT YOU'D
PUSH ME ONTO
NAO-KUN...

MY FEELINGS
HAVE BEEN
THAT MUCH OF
A BOTHER TO
YOU, HUH...



PANT
PANT?
!! ?

I WANTED
TO KNOW
WHAT
YOU WERE
THINKING,
BUT...



STOP!!



I DIDN'T
WANT TO
KNOW
THAT.



I'M
SORRY,
SAKU-
RADA...





BUT I
HURT YOU
LESS THIS
WAY, SO
IT'S FOR
THE BEST.



AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS



time.20

I WON'T LET GO.





WANNA
GO SOME-
PLACE
ELSE?

SAKURA-
DA-SAN,
BRIGHT-
EN IT UP
A BIT!

THIS
PLACE IS
KINDA
GLOOMY,
DON'T
YOU
THINK?

GASP

MY
SISTERS
THOUGHT
IT'D BE
INTEREST-
ING AND
MADE IT
FOR ME.

SINCE
YOU'RE
HERE,
WE'RE
COM-
ING IN!♥

THANK
GOOD-
NESS!

WHEW!

GASP!
NAO!♥
ARE YOU
A PRI-
VATE DE-
TECTIVE?
SO
COOL!

HEY,
LADIES.
THANKS
FOR
COMING.
RIGHT
THIS
WAY!

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS



OKAY!

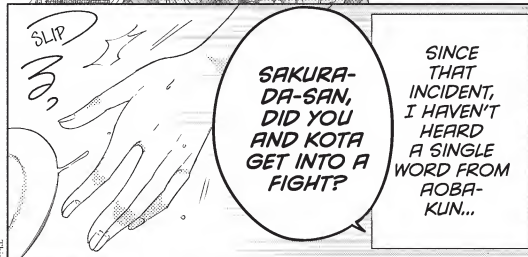
I'M
GOING
TO GO
WASH THE
DISHES!

I
SHOULD
BE
ENJOY-
ING THE
FESTIVAL

I'M
FINE,
SORRY.

ARE
YOU
OKAY?

SAKURA-
DA-SAN,
ARE YOU
NOT
FEELING
WELL?



SLIP

SAKURA-
DA-SAN,
DID YOU
AND KOTA
GET INTO A
FIGHT?

SINCE
THAT
INCIDENT,
I HAVEN'T
HEARD
A SINGLE
WORD FROM
AOBA-
KUN...



W...
'WELL...

FORGET
YOUR
FEELINGS
FOR ME AND
BE HAPPY
WITH NAO.



DID
SOME-
THING HAP-
PEN?

I
MEAN,
YOU
GUYS
AREN'T
TALKING

WHA...?



GLATTER
ハッハッ



AND I
THOUGHT
I COULD
FORGIVE
AOBA-
KUN FOR
ANY-
THING...

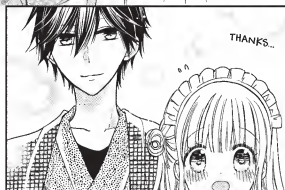
HOW
AWFUL...!

SAKURA-
DA-SAN,
APPARENTLY
WE'RE ON
BREAK
NOW!



FWISH
/ / / / /
THAT
WAS
FAST.

I'VE
DECID-
ED TO
FORGET
ABOUT
AOBA-
KUN!



THANKS...



HUH...?
YOU
DON'T
MIND?

WANNA
CHECK
THE
FESTIVAL
OUT?

OF
COURSE
NOT!!



OH...

I JUST
REMEM-
BERED I'M
ON DUTY
FOR THE
BASKETBALL
TEAM...

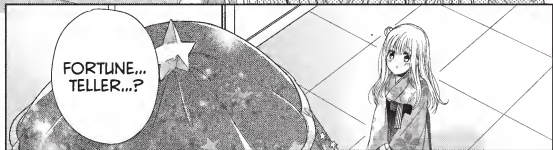


LET'S
CHECK
OUT AO-
BA-KUN'S
BUTLER
CAFÉ!
THERE'S
A HUGE
LINE AP-
ARENTLY!





THINGS
ARE GONNA
KEEP BEING
AWKWARD
BETWEEN ME
AND AO-
BA-KUN...



FORTUNE...
TELLER...?



COME
ON IN!



I...
IT'S LIKE
THE LIS-
TENING
HOUSE...

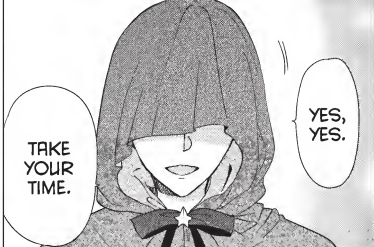


FOR THOSE
WITH LOVE
TROUBLES,
OR DEEP,
DARK
SECRETS...!

THE
SUPER
FORTUNE
TELLER
WILL GET
STRAIGHT
TO THE
SOLU-
TION...?

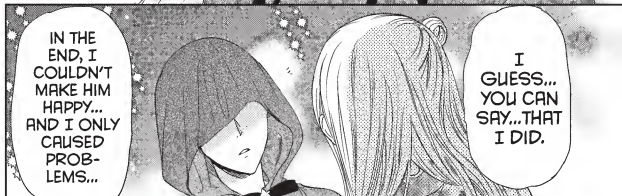


HE'S CUTE WHEN
HE LETS HIS HAIR DOWN





YOU
TRIED,
HUH?



IN THE
END, I
COULDN'T
MAKE HIM
HAPPY...
AND I ONLY
CAUSED
PROB-
LEMS...

I
GUESS...
YOU CAN
SAY...THAT
I DID.



THE
TRUTH?



THE
TRUTH
IS...

HE ENDED UP
PUSHING ME
AWAY...AND
THINGS ARE
AWKWARD...



I
WANTED TO
WATCH HIM
ENJOY BAS-
KETBALL...
AND LAUGH
WITH THE
GIRL THAT
HE LIKES...

IF I
SAW THAT,
I WOULD
BE ABLE
TO LET HIM
GO...

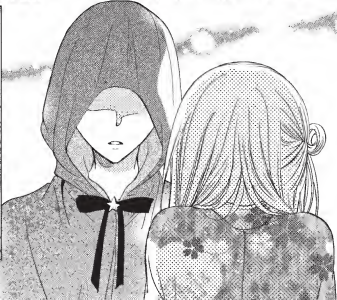
***I...
WISH
I HAD
DONE
MORE...***

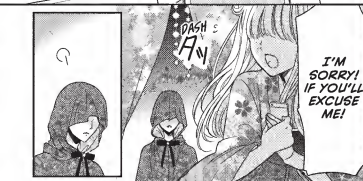
I
WOULD BE
ABLE TO
FORGET
EVERY-
THING...



**BUT NO
MATTER
HOW
HARD I
TRY...**

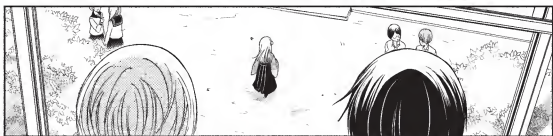
**...I'M
NOT GO-
ING TO
BE ABLE
TO REACH
HIM ANY-
MORE.**

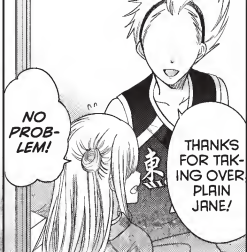
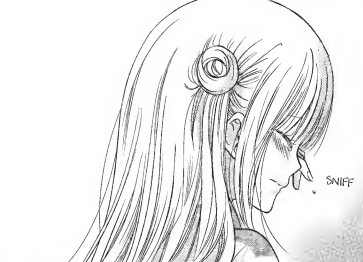


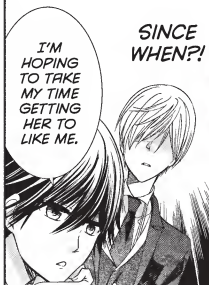












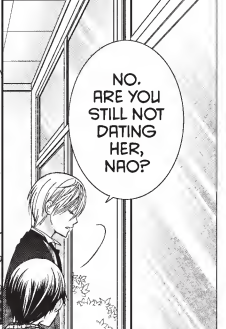
I'M
HOPING
TO TAKE
MY TIME
GETTING
HER TO
LIKE ME.

**SINCE
WHEN?!**



MMM...

I
TAKE
RELATION-
SHIPS
SERIOUSLY,
Y'KNOW.



NO.
ARE YOU
STILL NOT
DATING
HER,
NAO?



AS
LONG AS
I DON'T
HAVE ANY-
ONE TO
COMPETE
WITH...



RIGHT,
KOTA?



**YOU
LIKE
HER,
DON'T
YOU?**

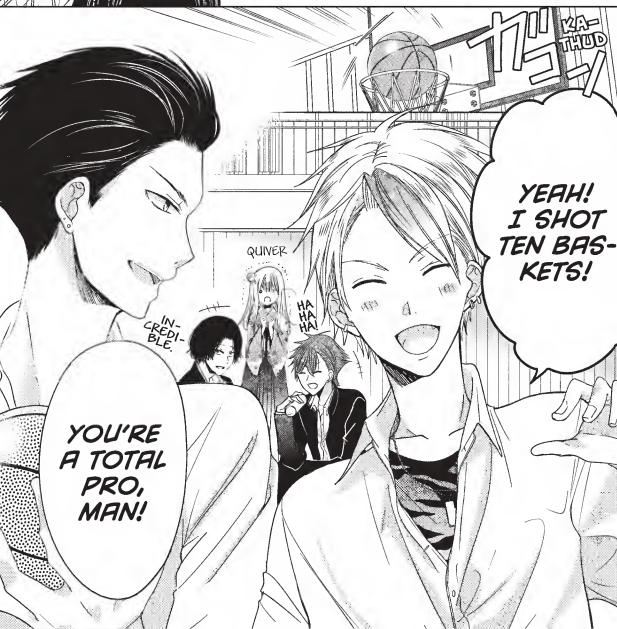
**YOU
LIKE
HER,
BUT
YOU'VE
GIVEN
UP,
HAVEN'T
YOU?**



I...

...I'M
NOT
GONNA
GIVE
UP ON
HER...

I SAID
THIS BEFORE,
TOO, BUT IF
YOU'RE
GONNA BE
LIKE THAT,
KOTA





ROBA-
KUN!

WHO
THE
HECK
IS THIS
GUY?!
HE'S
SO
TALL!

IS HE FROM
THE BASKET-
BALL TEAM?

IF YOU
WANT
TO BE
SWEEP
OFF
YOUR
FEET,

ANY-
WAY, A
GUY'S...

I'LL BE
THE ONE
WHO
WILL BE
DOING
THAT.

BAM





HE'S
NOT
GONNA
FIGHT
BACK!

A SPORTS
TEAM PLAYER
CAN'T PLAY
IN A GAME IF
HE CAUSES
TROUBLE,
Y'KNOW!



IT'S
FINE!
RELAX!

HEY!
YOU
TOOK
IT TOO
FAR!

AOBA-
KUN!

THUD
!!
#



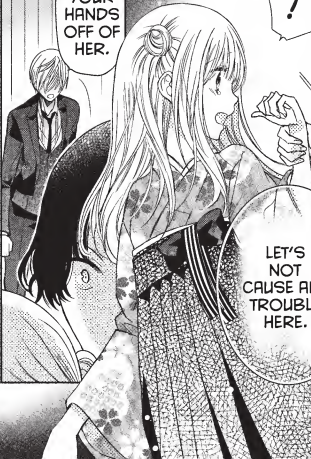
!

I...
I'M
GONNA
CALL
THE
TEACH-
ER...



TAKE
YOUR
HANDS
OFF OF
HER.

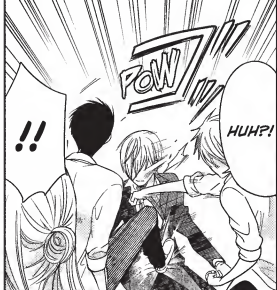
!



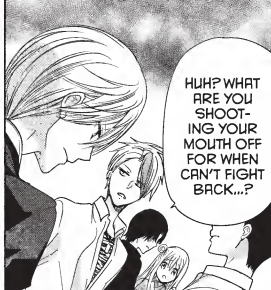
LET'S
NOT
CAUSE ANY
TROUBLE
HERE.



NOW,
WE
CAN'T
HAVE
THAT,
MISSY!



HUH?!



HUH? WHAT
ARE YOU
SHOOT-
ING YOUR
MOUTH OFF
FOR WHEN
CAN'T FIGHT
BACK...?



I'LL
DO A
KABE-
DON OR
ANY-
THING!

I
WON'T
CALL
ANY-
ONE!

S...
STOP
IT!



AOBA-
KUN! D...
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME!

SO YOU
DO GET
IT!



TH...



**I
WANT TO
PROTECT
YOU,
SAKURA-
DA...**

**THE
TRUTH
IS...**

**...I
DON'T
WANT
TO GIVE
UP...**



WHAT...

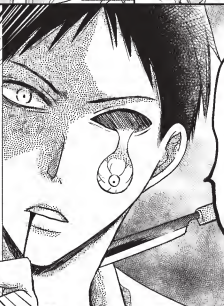


GASP



WHAT
THE
HECK
IS HE
TALKING
ABOUT-

WHAT...?



...ARE
YOU
DOING
TO OUR
PRECIOUS
TEAM-
MATE...?



WE'RE
GOING TO
MAKE SURE
YOU DON'T
CAUSE
PROBLEMS.

LISTEN,
YOU
PUNKS...
STARTING
A FIGHT IS
STRICTLY
PROHIB-
ITED AS A
SPORTS
TEAM...



KOTA!
WE
ALL
CAME
TO
HELP!

FWIP



IF I'M
SUCH A
BURDEN,
YOU
COULD'VE
JUST
LEFT ME
ALONE...

IT'S
OKAY IF
YOU JUST
THINK
ABOUT
THE GIRL
THAT YOU
LIKE,
ROBA-
KUN.

SO...

...SAKU-
RADA?

WHY...?





**...ANY-
MORE
THAN I
ALREADY
HAVE...**

**DON'T
MAKE ME
FALL FOR
YOU...**



I
NEVER
KNEW...

WE'VE
BEEN
APART
FOR A
MONTH
AND I
THOUGHT
THIS WAS
THE ONLY
WAY,
BUT...

IT'S
NOT
GON-
NA
WORK
OUT...



CLENCH



...I'D
WANT
SO BADLY
TO MAKE
YOU
MINE...



A...
ROBA-
KUN...
YOU CAN'T
DO THIS...
WHAT
ABOUT
THE
OTHER
GIRL...?

BAD-
UMP
||
+
/

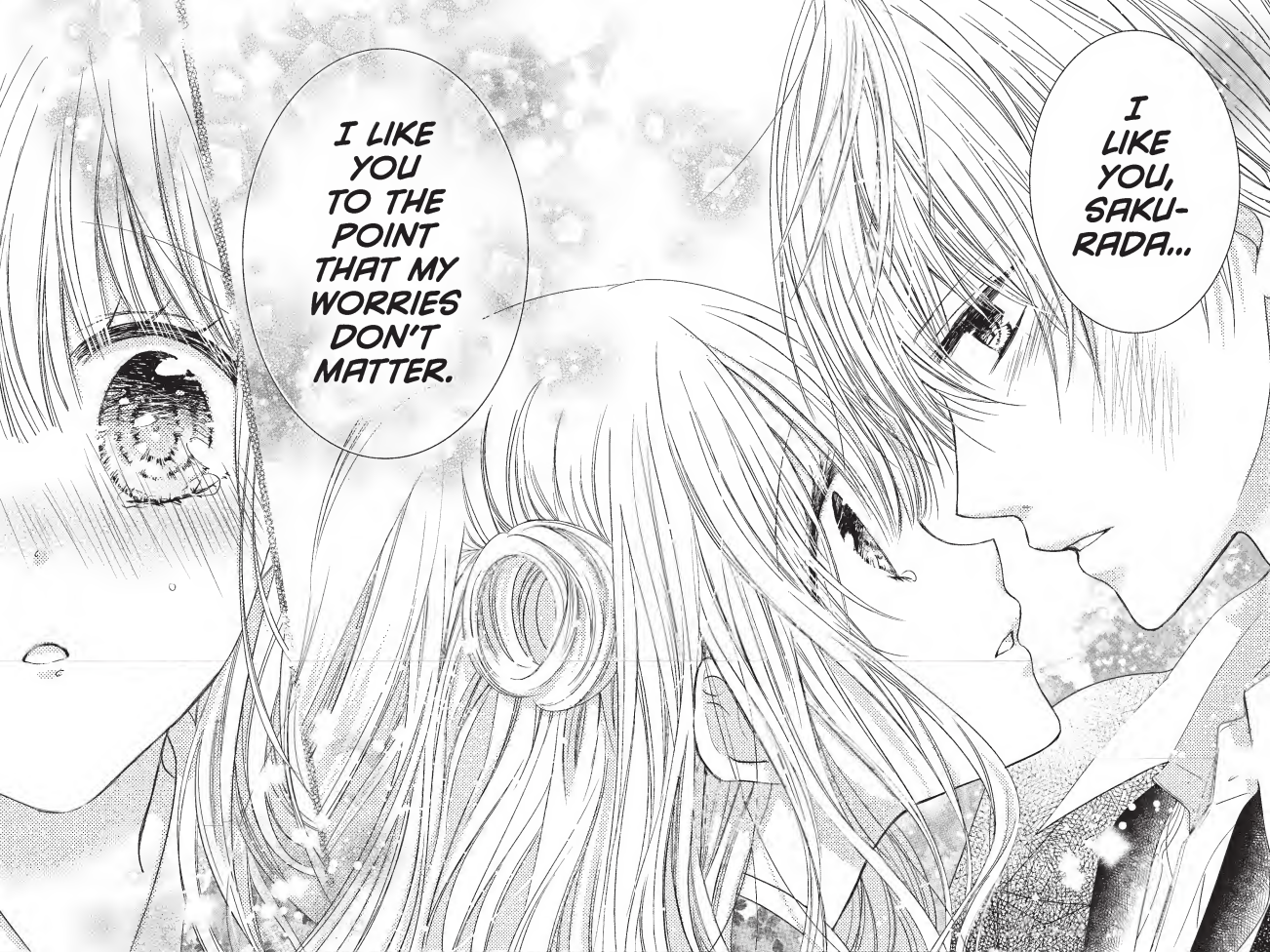
BAD-
UMP
||
+
/

RUSTLE
10
+

I
KNOW.

I'M
ONLY
THINKING
ABOUT
HER RIGHT
NOW.





**I LIKE
YOU
TO THE
POINT
THAT MY
WORRIES
DON'T
MATTER.**

**I
LIKE
YOU,
SAKU-
RADA...**



**I'M
NOT...
LETTING
GO OF
THIS FEEL-
ING...**

**I'M
NOT
GOING
TO BEAT
AROUND THE
BUSH ANY-
MORE...**

**I'M
READY...
I'VE MADE
MY DECIS-
SION...**

TO BE CONTINUED
IN VOLUME 6

☆ Hello! This is Ema Toyama. Thank you for picking up Volume 5. I feel like a lot of progress was made with the volume. I happened upon a special TV show that was talking about handymen who did "Listening House" work. In that program from the other day, I was surprised to see how deeply empathic almost like a mother. they became for their client, Incredible...!!

Maybe one day there will be a client who will want Mayo to pretend like his lover...?! With anticipation for that, I'm hoping to show more of the Listening House

☆ next volume, too.

The extra chapter happened the ter is about what evening after Nao confessed his love to Mayo!

Anyway, take care!



EXTRA EDITION
"THE LATE NIGHT TALK AT
THE TEAM RETREAT"

COULD I...
SLEEP IN THE
SAME FUTON
WITH YOU TO-
NIGHT...?

SAKURA-
DA-SAN.



I'M HAPPY
TOO, SINCE
I WAS
ANXIOUS
FROM ALL
THE CHAOS.

SURE
THING!

I DID A
THOROUGH
CLEANING OF
THE PLACE,
BUT I STILL
FEEL LIKE
THERE MIGHT
BE SOME
OF THEM
AROUND...
THOSE,
UH...

HUH?

CLICK
OHHH...
OKAY,
I'M
TURN-
ING
OFF THE
LIGHTS.

!!
DID SOME-
THING HAPPEN
BETWEEN YOU
AND NAO?
M



SHE FELL ASLEEP FAST!

すやすや

LIKE,
DID NAO...
SAY HE
LIKED
YOU?

BAD-
UMP

BAD-
UMP

WHAAA...

SHE JUST PASSES OUT, DOESN'T SHE...?

WELL, SHE DID FAINT DUE TO HEAT-STROKE EARLIER.

OH WELL. I GUESS I'LL SLEEP, T-

SHE
JUST
PASS-
ES OUT,
DOESN'T
SHE...?

NGGGH-
HH...
!!
!!
!!

I HAVE TO
GO TO
THE BATH-
ROOM...!



I GUESS THE GUYS ARE ASLEEP, TOO.

WELL, THEY DID GET REALLY HYPED UP OVER THE FIREWORKS.

カッ...

FWWS-
SSHHH

WHEW!
GLAD IT
WASN'T
AROUND...



TOO
FREAKED
OUT TO
SCREAM

デデ
PROVES デデ



DASH

SLAM



SAKURA-
DA-SAN! ARE
YOU AWAKE?!
I JUST CAME
FROM THE
HALL AND
SAW THR-

HM...?



I'M
GONNA
DIE! OH
MY GOD,
I'M
GONNA
DIE!!!

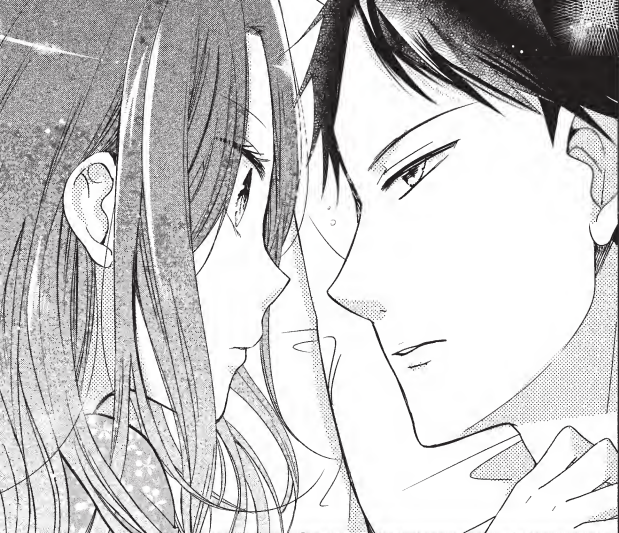
COCK-
ROACH-
ES!!!
THREE OF
THEM!!!

TREM-
BLE

TREM-
BLE



ズ
ホ
ン
SHU
ン



Aoba-kun's Confessions 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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